United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation – Supplemental Payment Activity – CCR99

Definition - Resource-Conserving Crop
Resource conserving crops are defined as:
a) a perennial grass, legume, or grass/legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure,
b) a high residue producing crop, or
c) a cover crop following an annual crop.

Note: This enhancement can apply to either the adoption of a resource-conserving crop rotation (RCCR) or an existing rotation that meets the criteria for improving a resource-that meets the criteria of an RCCR that is modified to a higher conservation level such as:

a) more years of grass and/or legumes,
   (Limited to those rotations with a current increment in perennial grass and/or legumes of two or three years)
b) more crop diversity,
c) more annual crops with cover crops, or
d) more years of a high residue crops, etc.).
   (Addition of high residue crops resulting in successive plantings of the same crop is not permissible.)

Land Use Applicability
This enhancement is applicable on cropland (not applicable for orchards or permanent hayland)

Benefits
A resource-conserving crop rotation means a crop rotation that includes at least one resource conserving crop, and reduces wind and water erosion, increases soil organic matter, improves soil fertility and tilth, interrupts pest cycles, reduces depletion of soil moisture or reduce the need for irrigation in applicable areas, and may provide protection and habitat for pollinators.

Criteria for Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation
General Criteria:

1. The rotation shall cover at least 3 years of the CSP contract.
2. The resource conserving crop rotation is considered adopted when the resource conserving crop is planted on at least 1/3 of the rotation acres. The resource conserving crop must be adopted by the third year of the contract and established or planted on all rotation acres by the fifth year of the contract.

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Cropping Criteria Options:

1. A minimum of two crops if one of the crops is a perennial lasting at least 2 years, OR;
2. A minimum of 2 crops, if no perennial, with a cover crop (not harvested) following one of the crop years (no silage or crop residue removed from the system), this may include a summer fallow if seeded to a cover crop, OR;
3. A minimum of 3 crops, if no perennial, where at least 1/2 the rotation consists of high residue crops.

Documentation Requirements for *Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation*
Planned Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation(s):

List crop rotation(s), resource conserving crops, and cover crops that will follow the specific crops as applicable for each rotation to receive supplemental payment:

Rotation#1: _____Fields: _____Years_____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Rotation#2: _____Fields: _____Years_____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Rotation#3: _____Fields: _____Years_____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Records:

- Crop rotation records by field
- Cover crops planted

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Four options for resource conserving crops are as follows:

1. Perennial grasses or legumes
   - Alfalfa or other adapted perennial legume (refer to 512 Pasture planting practice standard for a complete list of adapted perennial legume species)
   - Adapted perennial grasses with and without perennial legumes (refer to 512 Pasture planting practice standard for a complete list of adapted perennial grass/legume species)
   - Perennial grasses/legumes must be part of a crop rotation with annual crops.

2. High Residue Producing Annual Crops (with or without cover crops)

Corn (Grain or Seed corn)	Grain Sorghum (Milo)	Millet (all types for grain)
Small Grains (Winter or Spring Wheat, Oats, Rye, Barley, Triticale)	Forage Sorghums, Cane, Sudangrass or similar forage crops with 18 inches or more of re-growth after forage harvest (prior to a killing frost)	Canola (rapeseed)

   - Removal of stover by baling or other methods is not allowed.
   - Removal of straw following small grains is allowed when at least 10 inches of stubble height is maintained after removal.
   - Incidental grazing is allowed when managed to maintain 50% or more crop residue ground cover after grazing.

3. Low residue crops that qualify if a cover crop is planted following harvest

Sunflowers,	Soybeans	Edible beans (all types)
Corn, popcorn	Corn or Sorghum silage/green chop	Buckwheat
Chickpea/Garbonzo	Flax	Mustard
Safflower	Millet, hay	Corn, sweet corn
all high residue crops that have excessive residue removed by grazing or baling that does not maintain at least 50% ground cover or required stubble height.		

   - All low residue crops must be direct harvested (e.g. edible beans)
   - The use of other low residue crops following by an appropriate cover crop does not qualify as a RCC unless authorized by the state agronomist prior to planting.
   - Cover crop must be planted without tillage prior to planting

4. Cover crops following annual crops
   - Cover crops can not be harvested or grazed
   - Cover crops must follow planting dates, seeding rates, method of planting and other requirements in 340 Cover Crop Standard. Specifications will be provided on the Cover Crop Worksheet (NE-CPA-7).
   - Cover crops which winter kill must planted at least 8 weeks prior to the average date of the first killing frost.
   - Cover crops which over winter must have at least 4 weeks of spring growth before termination.
   - Winter annual cover crops planted following a low residue crop must have a minimum of 6-8" of growth before they are terminated.
   - Cover crop must contain a least one different crop type than the previous crop
   - Additional cover crop requirements following fall harvested crops:
     - Cover crop must be winter annual small grain or/ winter annual small grain with legume.
     - Winter annual cover crops include cereal rye, triticale or winter wheat.

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Examples of Resource Conserving Crop Rotations:

- Corn-Soybean-Wheat
- Corn-Sorghum-Soybean-Wheat
- Corn-Soybean w/ winter annual small grain cover crop or/ winter annual small grain with legume cover crop
- Corn-Dry Edible Beans-Wheat
- Corn-Field Peas-Wheat
- Corn-Sunflowers-Wheat
- Wheat-Corn-Fallow w/ cover crop (fallow year must have cover crop seeded to adapted cover crop in the fall or early spring and have 10 or more inches of growth prior to termination-refer to 340 Standard)
- Any rotation that includes alfalfa provided that the alfalfa is planted on 1/3 of the applicable acres by the third year of the contract and has been planted on all applicable acres by the end of the contract.

Crop Substitutions:

- Addition of high residue crops following the same crop (e.g. corn following corn) does not meet the requirements of this enhancement.
- Existing rotations must be changed by adding a new resource conserving crop (RCC), or adding an unharvested cover crop after an annual crop.
- Other high residue producing crops can be substituted for corn or wheat (i.e. high residue summer annual crops such as sorghum or millet can be substituted for corn, other types of small grains can be substituted for wheat).
- Other adapted perennial legumes/grasses may be substituted for alfalfa.
- Low residue crops may not follow another low residue crop.

Tract	Field(s)	Acres	Existing Rotation	Planned Rotation (if Cover Crop used List Type)	Applied Rotation (completed by operator)
1	*1*	*100*	*c-b-w*	*c-b-w-cover crop mix*	

C=Corn; B=soybeans/edible beans; W=Wheat; M=Milo; A=Alfalfa; O=Oats; cover crop; Others=_____

I certify that the resource conserving crop meets all of the requirements in this document and includes the following documentation if cover crops are utilized:

1. Complete, sign, and attach Cover Crop worksheet NE-CPA-7 if cover crops are added to rotation

Certified by: _____ Date:_____